

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN

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KEVIN SIERRA-LOPEZ,

Plaintiff,

v.

DR. SALAM SYED, JOLINDA  
WATERMAN and REBECCA TRACY,

Defendants.

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ORDER

17-cv-599-wmc

Plaintiff Kevin Sierra-Lopez is proceeding in this civil action on various Eighth Amendment claims against employees of the Wisconsin Department of Corrections working at Columbia Correctional Institution. At plaintiff's request, the court recruited counsel Lonnie Story of the Story Law Firm, to represent him *pro bono* for the remainder of this civil action. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(1) ("The court may request an attorney to represent any person unable to afford counsel."); *Pruitt v. Mote*, 503 F.3d 647, 653-54 (7th Cir. 2007) (en banc) (noting that § 1915(e)(1) confers, at most, discretion "to recruit a lawyer to represent an indigent civil litigant *pro bono publico*"). Accordingly, the court will enter his appearance as plaintiff's *pro bono* counsel for the record.

The next step is for the court to hold a status conference to reset the trial date in this case. So that counsel will have sufficient time to consult with plaintiff in advance of the conference, the clerk's office will be directed to set that conference in mid-September as the court's schedule allows.

Finally, plaintiff should appreciate that his counsel took on this representation out of a sense of professional responsibility, which includes representing zealously those clients

he takes on. Now that he is represented by counsel, plaintiff is advised that in return for representation, plaintiff, too, has taken on a responsibility. For example, all future communications with the court must be through his attorney of record. Plaintiff must also work directly and cooperatively with his attorney, as well as those working at his direction, and must permit him to exercise his professional judgment to determine which matters are appropriate to bring to the court's attention and in what form. Plaintiff does not have the right to require counsel to raise frivolous arguments or to follow every directive he makes. On the contrary, plaintiff should expect his counsel to tell him what he *needs* to hear, rather than what he might prefer to hear, and understand that the rules of professional conduct may preclude counsel from taking certain actions or permitting plaintiff from doing so.

If plaintiff decides at some point that he does not wish to work with his lawyer, he is free to alert the court and end his representation, but he should be aware that it is highly unlikely that the court will recruit a second attorney to represent him.

#### ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that the clerk's office enter Lonnie Story of the Story Law Firm as plaintiff's *pro bono* counsel of record and to set this case for a status conference in mid-September as the court's schedule allows.

Entered this 17th day of August, 2020.

BY THE COURT:

/s/

WILLIAM M. CONLEY  
District Judge